

## Honors English 3 Research Paper Topic

Today you will start researching American authors for your research paper. Over the course of the next few weeks, you will read one of the author's books, identify topics/passages that interest you, research what literary experts are also saying about these topics, analyze these passages, develop an argument, and use literary experts' claims to help support your own analysis. But, before you can start that process you need a topic/author.

Directions: You will think about topics that you are passionate about – no one can help you with this task. Really think about what you want to read and write about for the next couple of months. Could you pick an “easy” author with a lot of information on them and cliché topics that you can research online? Yes - but, you will hate the project, fail to realize anything about yourself, and/or produce writing that is not your best quality. If you are passionate about a topic you will enjoy the reading more and will mind the writing less. More importantly, the level of insight in your ideas and the quality of your writing will be better, because you won't completely hate the project. To help you figure out the best author for your paper, follow the steps below. If you complete this assignment correctly it will take you the entire class period and possibly even longer.

**Step 1:** List at least 5 topics that you are truly passionate about. Really take time to think about this part – it drives the rest of the assignment.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

**Step 2:** Find a couple of authors that are known for writing about these topics. You should get a computer at this point to help you with your research.

1) Topic:

Authors:

2) Topic:

Authors:

3) Topic:

Authors:

4) Topic:

Authors:

5) Topic:

Authors:

**Step 3:** Find books from the authors you selected above – be careful though, you will come across plot spoilers in your research. Literally research what your book is about. If the plot sounds boring or the book doesn't deal with a topic that interests you, keep looking for other books by the author.

Topic	Author	Books by the Author on Your Topic

**Step 4:** Prioritize your authors. Have at least 3 different authors and books. Many students will have 3 authors, but they may prepare with multiple books by the same author in case someone else in class also wants to read that book. You cannot select a book that we already read in class – refer to your course syllabus from the first day of school to prevent selecting one of these authors.

- 1) Topic – Author – Book:
  
- 2) Topic – Author – Book:
  
- 3) Topic – Author – Book:
  
- 4) Topic – Author – Book:
  
- 5) Topic – Author – Book:

If you are struggling to think of American authors for your literary criticism paper, you can use the two links below. You are not confined to the topics on the lists below - you may select an author that is not listed. The only requirements for your topics are that 1) it is an argument about an American author, 2) you are genuinely interested in the topic, and 3) your peers do NOT have the same topic as you. So, make sure that you are prepared with multiple topics, authors, and books.